



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MN111

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: An area in a 40 mile radius around Lake Crystal in south central Minnesota encompassing Blue Earth, Nicollet, LeSeur and Watonwan Counties, most of Brown and Sibley Counties and parts of Faribault, Martin, Cottonwood and Waseca Counties

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position: Lake Crystal, MN 56055

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 40 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objectives for a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation would be to:

- 1) Provide on farm veterinary services for food animals at least 40% of a full time veterinarian position (16 hrs/week) including diagnosis and treatment of food animals, preventive practices such as vaccinations and development of herd health plans, and other routine and emergency veterinary services
- 2) Educate producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, nutrition, appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals, and animal husbandry
- 3) Have a working knowledge of state and federal animal health laws and maintain a Type #2 veterinary accreditation to provide accurate and reliable regulatory documents producers may need
- 4) Have a working knowledge of state reportable diseases and foreign animal diseases and know where to report suspected cases
- 5) Serve as a local resource for information on food animal medicine and related public health issues and provide expertise and advise local groups on these topics including speaking at meetings or events when requested
- 6) Provide other veterinary services as needed

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This veterinarian would examine, diagnose, and treat livestock on the farm including providing emergency services during evenings and weekends. They would also provide the animal regulatory services needed by livestock producers including certificates of veterinary inspection, TB testing or brucellosis vaccination of animals.

Although Lake Crystal (population 2600) is the geographic center of this shortage area, there are several communities within this area with higher populations; Waseca (pop. 9600), St. Peter (pop. 10,000), New Ulm (pop. 13,000), Mankato (pop. 32,000). These towns are separated by relatively dense agricultural areas of livestock, corn and soybean production. Agriculture is a focus for most of these communities and to be successful, a veterinarian must integrate into one or more communities by participating in local service or governmental organizations, working with local groups (i.e. 4-H, county fairs) to share their expertise in animal health, medicine and public health. To promote the veterinary profession, the veterinarian would also participate in state and local veterinary medical associations.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Veterinarians looking for food animal practitioners will often work closely with the University of Minnesota's School of Veterinary Medicine to recruit recent graduates interested in food animal medicine. They also advertise in the state veterinary medical association's newsletter. One recent graduate in this area left for a more lucrative government regulatory position offering a bonus and vet school loan repayment as incentives. The VMLRP would provide an additional incentive for an existing practice to attract or retain the services of a new associate or allow a recent graduate to establish a new practice in this area.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Food animal veterinarians are the first responders in animal disease outbreaks and one of the first to identify health impacts to our food animals. Without this expertise in this area of high food animal production in Minnesota, the viability of our livestock producers, local economies, and food supply could be adversely affected. Four of the counties within this area are in the top ten for livestock revenue in Minnesota (NASS 2007 data). Blue Earth and Watonwan Counties are two of the five counties in our state with the highest number of food animals

per veterinarian (AVMA data). While this area may no longer support a full time food animal veterinarian, it's critical for this service to be available to ensure the health of our food animals and the agricultural economy in this area. Lack of veterinary services could result in: 1) increased disease or reproductive losses with monetary loss for the producer and community 2) delays in the recognition of disease which would allow spread with greater impact, 3) improper use of pharmaceuticals or biologics by producers which could contaminate food, or 4) movement of sick or non-performing animals into the food supply as veterinary services are not readily available.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Not applicable for this funding cycle.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.